## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_\_\_

Property Name: Harry Cherrix Farmhouse	Inventory Number: WO-42										
4228 – 4504 Address: 4504-4228 Snow Hill Road	Historic district: yes X no										
City: Snow Hill, MD Zip Code: 21863	County: Worcester										
USGS Quadrangle(s): Snow Hill											
Property Owner: Bruce Cherrix and Harry Cherrix T	ax Account ID Number: 02-007142 & 011										
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 33, 34 Tax Map Number	r:63, 71										
Project: US 113 at MD 12 Interchange Improvements Agency: FHWA/SHA											
Agency Prepared By: MD SHA											
Preparer's Name: Rita Suffness Architectural Historian	Date Prepared: 04/30/2004										
Documentation is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files											
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended	X Eligibility not recommended										
Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B	CDEFG										
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource	to a NR district/property:										
Name of the District/Property:											
Inventory Number: Eligible:yes	Listed: yes										
Site visit by MHT Staff yes X no Name:	Date:										
Description of Property and Justification: (Please attatch map and photo)											
The Cherrix property is composed of two farmsteads that are owned and farmed as a single entity. The original L-shaped farmhouse, built ca. 1850, by Charlotte J. (Dennis) Hack on land she had inherited from her father and likely operated as a tenant far, has been abandoned. The Dennis family owned vast properties, and has significant associations with highly significant Worcester County properties. Approximately 20 years after being purchased by the ancestors of the current owners, the Cherrix family, (just after the turn of the twentieth century), a second cluster of farm buildings was constructed to the north of the original farmstead, composed of a ca. 1920 farmhouse, and a cluster of farm buildings behind it, including sheds, domestic outbuildings, and a long frame chickenhouse. The latter farmstead is undistinguished, exhibiting some alteration of the original cluster, not only with the addition of modern buildings, but in the alteration of the historic ones. The dwelling has the varied silhouette associated with the revival styles of the day, but nonetheless is an undistinguished example of the picturesque mode.  The Cherrix property was evaluated in accordance with criterion of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These criteria state that the quality of significance in American History, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and											
association, and that are associated with events that have made a significant contribu	ition to the broad patterns of our history										
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW											
Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended											
Criteria:ABCD Considerations:A	BCDEFG										
MHT Comments:											
Tim Tauleumo 1	7/15/09										
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	7 15 09										
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date										

Page 2

(Criterion A); or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Criterion C); or that have yielded, or may be able to yield, information important in prehistory or history (Criterion D) (36 CFR 63, and National Register Bulletin Series NO. 15).

It was also evaluated in accordance with the Worcester County Preservation Plan, and the NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form (both by Paul Baker Touart, 1992). According to these documents, Worcester County farm dwellings should retain excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Those built in the prevailing architectural fashions in ca. 1800-1860, such as the Harry Cherrix farmhouse (original Hack tenant house), should retain interior and exterior finishes and retain some period outbuildings. During the 1900-1942 time period, when the second farmstead was constructed, floor plans for farmhouses were characterized by the introduction of new designs as well as the retention of familiar forms, and decorative details ranged widely.

To be considered eligible for the NRHP, the buildings must retain sufficient integrity of historic fabric to convey the sense of mid-to-late nineteen and early twentieth century architecture, as well as meeting the NRHP criteria. Because the Cherrix farm property lacks associations with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A); or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values (Criterion C). This property was not elected as eligible in the Multiple Property NRHP documentation. This original determination is confirmed in the present evaluation.

The boundary for the Harry Cherrix Farmhouse is confined to Worcester County Tax Maps 63 and 71, Parcels 33 and 34.

MARYLAN	D HISTO	DRICAL	TRUST	REVI	EW							
Eligibility recommended				Eligibility not recommended								
Criteria:	A	B	C	D	Considerations:	A	В	C	D	E	F	G
MHT Comm		er, Offic	e of Pres	servatio	on Services			Date			w)	
Reviewer, National Register Program					Date							

#### Maryland Historic Inventory Form Addendum Sheet

SURVEY NUMBER:

WO-42

BUILDING NAME:

Harry Cherrix Farmhouse (s)

LOCATION:

4228 and 4504 Snow Hill Road

Snow Hill, Maryland

**PREVIOUS** 

DOCUMENTATION BY:

Michael Bourne, MHT, original MIHP form (1969)

CURRENT

**DOCUMENTATION BY:** Rita M. Suffness, MD SHA (April, 2004)

**DESCRIPTION**: In the original 1969 MIHP form, the Harry Cherrix Farmhouse was documented as a two-story, five bay long, frame dwelling, supported on a stuccoed foundation and clad with asbestos shingles. The house, with large exterior chimneys at each end of the main block, was reported at the time as being in good repair and occupied by tenants. The surveyor noted that the farm, including an adjacent parcel, was owned by one family who farmed the land. He further noted that the north end wall of the main block of the dwelling had two windows while the south side had none at the two principle levels, and the entrance was located in the center of the west entrance façade, and finally, that a third chimney was located in the end, or east wall, of the kitchen wing. There was a meat house with strap hinges behind the house.

This addendum updates the original inventory form in that it documents the additional outbuildings, describes the current deteriorated and abandoned state of the original farmhouse (on parcel 34, map 71), and includes the later (1920) farmhouse, constructed at 4504 Snow Hill Road by the Cherrix descendents, on a parcel (parcel 33, map 63) immediately north of Harry Cherrix farmhouse.

The ell-shaped Harry Cherrix farmhouse, built ca. 1850, is located at the end of a long farm road, which is accessed from the east side of Snow Hill (a.k.a. Stockton) Road, or MD 12. The flank of the side-gable structure parallels MD 12, with a centered entry, with sidelights and transom, sheltered by a one-story gable roof porch. The roof is clad with composition shingles. The fenestration, composed of six over six lights at the two main levels, is regular in this center block, except for the lack of parallel between the fenestration pattern of the two end walls (with large outside centered chimneys), and the loss of one window in the middle bay of the rear, or east elevation. A rear ell, at a lower elevation, is located on the north side of the east elevation, with a large chimney, inside of the end wall, and a small portion of the fireplace back exposed. An entrance is

located in the south elevation of this ell wing, along with two windows, whereas the east elevation is black, and the north elevation is the location of two sets of windows at both levels. A meat house, with a standing seam metal roof, is located immediately east of the house, within a cluster of outbuildings, clad with asbestos shingles and with composite roofing, that includes a large, square sidegable horse stable, a greatly deteriorated, dual-entry, gable-end, corncrib and concrete block machine shed.

The later cluster of farm buildings, likely constructed on an adjacent parcel by Cherrix descendents, and currently owned by Ruth Cherrix and Linda Stevens, is composed of a ca. 1920 farmhouse, and a cluster of farm buildings behind it, including two frame sheds and one metal machine shed, two small frame structures, (including a meat house), a corncrib, a concrete block shed, and a long frame chicken house.

The cluster of buildings is also accessed by a long farm road, accessed from the east side of Snow Hill (a.k.a. Stockton) Road, or MD 12. The flank of the side-gable structure parallels MD 12, has a centered entry, is clad with vinyl siding, and has a combination of two-over-two lights, with modern infill windows (hopper, sliding, etc.). This two and one-half story dwelling has a more complex silhouette that its older counterpart (the federal style farmhouse built during the ownership of Charlotte Hack), as it is composed of two wide, side-gabled, frame sections that intersect at the north end of the main block.

The main block is a three bay wide, side-gable section, with a wide cross gable centered in the west elevation, whereas the entry is in the far north bay. The principle facade is sheltered by a one-story, shed-roof pooch. The structure is clad with vinyl siding, and has boxed cornices and returns on the gable ends. A large brick chimney, with corbelled cap, is immediately behind the cross gable at the ridge of the gable roof. Abutting and extending the north end wall of the principle block is a cross wing which projects from both the front and rear elevations. Both sections are the same height, with two, one-story shed-roofed enclosed porches located in the inside angle of the two intersecting sections. A brick chimney is located midway in the long, composite shingle-clad roof.

The entrance road circles around the house to access a row of outbuildings, the first three of which are likely original and contribute to the significance of the farmstead. All three of these original outbuildings are frame, clad with vinyl, with composite shingle clad roofs. The one closest to the house is a gable-end structure, likely a meat house, whereas the second one may have been a peeper shed. A side-gable structure, the roof overhangs the front elevation of this small

structure, which is the location of two windows, plus a door. A large, wide machine shed has two sets of large sliding doors. Immediately behind the house is what appears to be a more modern frame structure, composed of a gable-end center structure, with a hay door in the second level, extended by low shed-roof additions on each side. The structure accommodates the garaging of three structures. On the far, or south side of this encircling internal farm road, is a large, metal machine shed, plus a gable-end vinyl clad, large, and finally a very small, concrete block, shed roof shed. At a distance from this cluster and south of the house is a very long and extensive wooden chicken house, with tile feed silos behind it. This chicken house, plus four outbuildings, contributes to the significance of this secondary farm cluster as part of the property, in addition to the large farmhouse.

#### History

The land on which this house is located has been held by the Cherrix family since 1903, when it was purchased by Zadok H. Cherrix. Construction of the house, probably for tenant farmers, probably occurred during the ownership of Charlotte J. Hack (1813-1903), the daughter and heir of Captain James Dennis (1770-1850). It has originally been patented as "Mardike" in 1668.

The chain of title indicates that the ancestors of the current owners, Henry and Ruth Cherrix, purchased it from Jacob Frederick Wooley, then residing in Brooklyn, New York, in 1903 (Land Record, June 20, 1903, FHP 19/37). He had purchased it from Stephen Wilson in 1880 (Land Record, Dec 15, 1880, IJM 8/181), at which time it was known as Mardike and comprised 180 acres. Charlotte J. Hack, who sold it to Wilson (Land Record, August 27, 1877, IJM 5/426) had inherited from her father Captain James Dennis (Will Record LPS/436, November 27, 1848). Dennis was living at his plantation called the Gunby Farm when he wrote his will in 1848, which he willed to another daughter, Louisa Bishop. He was dividing his time between the Gunby Farm and a house in Snow Hill, which he also willed to Charlotte, who was probably living there at the time of her death on February 1, 1902. It is unclear how Dennis acquired the Mardike property; however, it is apparent that it was a minor property among the numerous properties and estates owned by Dennis at his death, premier among them the Cellar House, which Dennis purchased in 1812 from James Duer.

The original patent for "Mardike," comprising 1,000 acres, was issued to Captain Paul Marsh in 1668. The property did not remain in the possession of any one family for long until the mid-nineteenth century, with the exception of Matthew Scarborough, who held it from 1686 to 1753 (Marsh sold it to William Stevens in 1678, who sold it to Scarbrough in 1686). A portion was re-surveyed as

Scarboroughs Lott, then Durham and Scarboroughs Lot, then Selbys Discovery. It rapidly passed, by sale or will, to the Selbys, Ayres, Kellum, Johnson, Merrill, Hammond, Riggin, Duer, Johnson, Handy and Ingram families.

Historic Context: Worcester County
Agriculture and Plantation Architecture 1800-1860

In 1800 Worcester County remained a sparsely settled with a total population of 16,730. Travelers passing through the area at the time remarked that the region remained much in wilderness. Snow Hill, the oldest town, was still a remote county seat of a few hundred souls at the headwater of the Pocomoke River. The Cherrix property is located just south of Snow Hill.

By the second and third decades of the nineteenth century significant economic and social changes were underway that would permanently affect the character of Worcester County. Tobacco, grown less and less as consistent cash crop, was fully replaced during the period as farmers embraced commercial grain agriculture coupled with the management of large number of cattle, sheep and swine. Market surpluses in Indian corn, oats, and potatoes were joined with large supplies of leather, flax, and the home manufacture of cloth, honey and butter in an increasingly diversified county economy.

Facilitating much of the new-found vitality within the rural recesses of Worcester County was the countrywide improvement in the transportation system that joined far-flung markets in the burgeoning urban centers of New York Norfolk, Philadelphia, Baltimore and the new federal city of Washington. Inside Worcester County, new roads and additional public landings were created to serve the need of a growing resident population. Schooners, steamboats and stages traversed the region transporting people as well as the produce and home manufactures made of Worcester County farms, which were exchanged for finished goods imported from abroad. New household products and gadgets flooded retail markets by the mid nineteenth century as did books and treatises on every aspects of rural and town life. Especially influential for county residents were manuals that described new trends in land and animal husbandry, as well as essays on the best method with which to erect a farm or town dwelling. Slowly these new ideas reordered the way many people lived on the lower Eastern Shore.

In architecture, the Federal style remained popular mixed with the less obvious influence of the Greek Revival. The Federal style, which appeared during the late

eighteenth century, continued to dominate the regional taste during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. One of the most popular architectural form for the merchant and wealthy planter class was the gable-fronted, transverse hall plan dwelling. Other room dispositions, primarily the center hall and side hall floor plans with single or double-pile room depth, continued in use as did the four-room plans. Parallel movements in stylistic trends are evident in smaller farmhouses as well, During this period, the stepped or "telescope" profile of the attached service wing became standard practice as whole houses or additional were conceived and built in a broken profile.

#### Postbellum Agriculture and Architecture, 1860-1900.

By the mid-nineteenth century the lower Eastern shore had prospered as an whole, benefiting from successive years of sustained profits from the commercial, agrarian and minor industrial economy of the region. Transportation networks had broadened to include regular steamboat service on both sides of the peninsula—serving major urban centers of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Norfolk. Expanding demand from these and other cities, as well as from within, ensured continued markets for local produce, timber products and homemade manufactures, long a part of the Worcester County economy.

No amount of mid-century progress, however, would prepare lower Shore resident for the economic and social transformations that would accompany the coming of rail transportation to Worcester County. With the arrival of the railroad in each town or village, a new spirit of energy and commerce took hold which reinvigorated old businesses and usher in new industries. Most relevant to outward appearance of each town was a new wave of construction that accompanied the prosperity of the time, but which also followed many devastating fires that ravaged Berlin, Snow Hill and Newtown.

Facilitating the reconstruction of the burned commercial and residential districts was the mechanization of the building trades nationwide through the widespread application of steam-generated power. Supplies of pre-made doors, window and blinds were easily transported across the lower Shore through networks of the newly built railroads.

The railroad significantly reduced the carrying time involved in shipping local produce form Worcester County farmers as well. When mid-century inventors conceived of the canning process for peninsula produce, the long-term preservation of fruits and vegetables, as well as oysters and crabs, became commonplace knowledge, as did other inventions and improvements that were disseminated through a new generation of manuals and treatises on rural life.

Some promoted the newest method in which to erect a stylish new farmhouse or a vermin-free corn crib. Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, the newest revivals of architectural styles pleased the tastes of some rural as well as town resident, while others held on to the time-honored house forms that had served so many past generations. The second half of the nineteenth century is distinguished mostly by variety of revival architectural styles that dominated national taste. Largely derivative of historically base styles from European culture, the Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire styles affected local building practices on many Worcester County farms. In many cases, the expression of a particular style was not executed in a highly elaborate manner, but was seen in the subtle use of a single pointed arch window, a bracketed eave, or a cross gable.

After the Civil War, Worcester county farmers continued to grow a variety of crops including large amounts of corn, oats and potatoes, and, at the same time, produced notable amounts of wool, butter and honey. During the third quarter of the nineteenth century, a few farmers and businessmen began to finance the construction of canning houses where local fruit and vegetables could be packaged and shipped by steamboat or by railroad as early as the late 1860's. The railroad system serving each Worcester County town was in place by the early 1880's. Profits realized from a relatively vibrant agricultural and minor industrial economy encouraged a period of rebuilding across the Worcester County landscape.

### Early Twentieth Century Agriculture and Architecture, 1900-1950.

Worcester County had been altered by a number of rapid economic and societal changes by the turn of the twentieth century. Improved transportation network by river, rail and road, coupled with the introduction of telephone service and widespread rural electrification, enhanced trade and commerce on the lower Eastern Shore. The building trades in Worcester County and across the peninsula prospered, in part in response to new inventions and developments in the construction technology which increasingly modified the building industry in the county, state and nation.

Despite the many economic, social and physical changes at work during the early twentieth century, the Worcester County landscape remained mostly rural, comprised mostly of small to median-sized farms. Corn, wheat and potatoes, alongside fields of peas, beans, and tomatoes, occupied a central position on agriculture, as did rows of fruit-bearing plants and trees.

Even though the Pocomoke River was a crucial transportation artery for central and southern Worcester County, broader based transportation needs were served by the extensive railway networks and later by the improved system of concrete, macadam and shell roads and concrete bridges erected during the first half of the twentieth century. The most significant growth of population occurred in the towns of Pocomoke City, Snow Hill and Berlin, as well as Ocean City, especially after the construction of the Sinepuxent River Bridge.

The architecture of the lower Eastern Shore followed nationwide trends, with considerable used of the Colonial Revival, Foursquare and Bungalow forms, as well as utilization of house kits provided by Sears, Roebuck and Company, Montgomery Ward and Alladin Houses. The architecture of Worcester County continued to change in response to popular national trends and technological innovations. The Colonial Revival had remained a popular style throughout the mid-to late twentieth century. Within the past thirty years, the prefabrication of entire houses has influenced building on the lower Shore. Nanticoke Homes, Inc. of Greenwood, Delaware, purveyors of this type of dwelling, has sales offices around the region, in Salisbury, Pocomoke City, Snow Hill and Ocean Pines.

#### SIGNIFICANCE:

The Cherrix property is composed two farmsteads that are owned and farmed as a single entity. The original ell-shaped farmhouse, built ca. 1850, by Charlotte J. (Dennis) Hack on land she had inherited from her father and likely operated as a tenant farm, has been abandoned. The Dennis family owned vast properties, and has significant associations with highly significant Worcester County properties. Approximately 20 years after being purchased by the ancestors of the current owners, the Cherrix family, (just after the turn of the twentieth century), a second cluster of farm buildings was constructed to the north of the original farmstead, composed of a ca. 1920 farmhouse, and a cluster of farm buildings behind it, including sheds, domestic outbuildings, and a long frame chicken house. This latter farmstead is undistinguished, exhibiting some alteration of the original cluster, not only with the addition of modern buildings,

but in the alteration of the historic ones. The dwelling has the varied silhouette associated with the revival styles of the day, but nonetheless is an undistinguished example of the picturesque mode.

The Cherrix property was evaluated in accordance with criteria of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These criteria state that "the quality of significance in American History, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and: that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A); or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (Criterion C); or that have yielded, or may be able to yield, information important in prehistory or history" (Criterion D) (36 CFR 63, and National Register Bulletin Series No. 15).

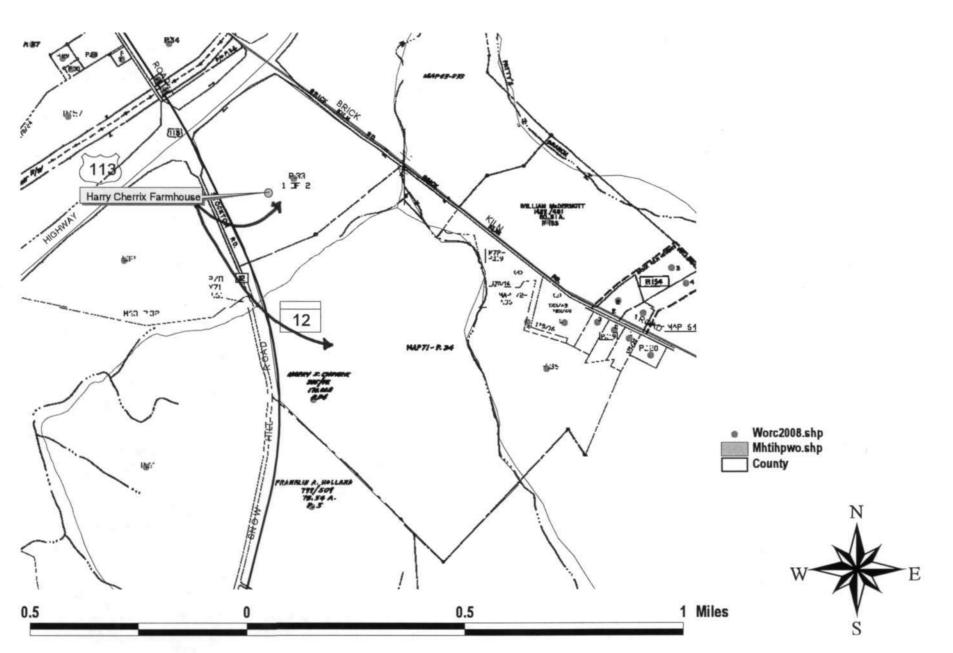
It was also evaluated in accordance with the Worcester County Preservation Plan, and the NRHP Multiple Property Documentation Form (both by Paul Baker Touart, 1992). According to these documents, Worcester County farm dwellings should retain excellent integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Those built in the prevailing architectural fashions in ca. 1800-1860, such as the original Hack tenant house, should retain interior and exterior finishes and retain some period outbuildings. During the 1900-1942 time period, when the second farmstead was constructed, floor plans for farmhouses were characterized by the introduction of new designs as well as the retention of familiar forms, and decorative details ranged widely.

To be considered eligible for the NRHP, the buildings must retain sufficient integrity of historic fabric to convey the sense of mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth century architecture, as well as meeting the NRHP criteria. Because the Cherrix farm property lacks associations with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A); or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B); or that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values; or that have yielded, or maybe able to yield, information important in prehistory or history (Criterion D). This property was not elected as eligible in the Multiple Property NRHP documentation. This original determination is confirmed in the present evaluation.

**BOUNDARY:** 170 acres encompassed within the bounds of parcel 34 (map 71), on which this house is located, and ca. 200 acres on which the later Cherrix farmhouse is located (parcel 33, map 63), for a total of 370 acres of farmland. This includes the derelict original Harry Cherrix farmhouse, four outbuildings, (one contributing) and the Ruth Cherrix farmhouse and eight outbuildings (five contributing).

PREPARED BY: Rita M. Suffness, Architectural Historian, MD SHA, 30 April 2004

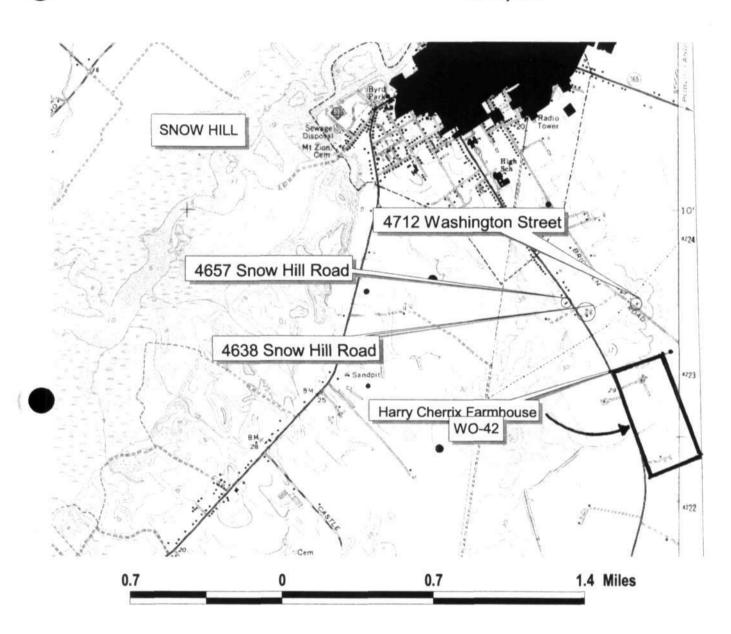
# Harry Cherrix Farmhouse with Worcester County Tax Maps 63 and 71



CH-0m

WO-42

Location Map Snow Hill USGS Quadrangle 1:24,000









EVENI MID 8 SER COMMENTER 强化, 0(++0) 960 Bheren . TAREA D PARKI PARTE Wodak! MANAGER



40-42 WARROU CARDORIX FARM HOUSE Word For Co. M.D. SUFFICES ZENZOF 19TH C. HONSE



1777 87 MILE PARES OFFICE DAPER



N N N AT SOUTH



ND-45 HARRY CRESSI, 1-FALLING WISE WORCESTON COUNTIN SMFFNESS 2003 S28< 21.0N> 119Z-136 SOUTH FACADE OF 1 LC



NO-47 HARRY CHERRY FARMHOUSE Worcester Co, MD. SUFFINESS 19720S SHEDS AT CHEROX FABINAGE

Form 10-445 (5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Workester TOWN SNOW Hill VICINITY STREET NO. R+ 12, 2 will south of town ( east to house ) ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Harry Cherris PRESENT USE fenant house WALL CONSTRUCTION frame

NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY WO - 42

2. NAME Harry Cherrix Farmhouse

DATE OR PERIOD C 1840 late Federal STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

The Harry Cherrix Farmhouse is a two-story, five-baylong, frame building on a foundation covered with stucco. At each end of the structure is a large exterior chimney with fireplaces on both stories. The north wall has two windows while the south has none, except for the two small windows in the The entrance is located in the center of the west facade and has a small porch over the door with transom and sidelights. All windows have six over six sash and louvered shutters. The building is covered with asbestos shingle. On the east northeast side is a two-bay kitchen 'L' which has a tall chimney on its gable, part of the fireplace back being exposed.

The house is in good repair and is tenanted. Behind the house is a small log meathouse with strap hinges on the doors.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered WO Interior

This farm and the adjoining farms are owned by one family who tills the entire tract.

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD Det, 1969